operations to eliminate any possible contamination of food material. The use of DDT in public health is restricted to 10,000 MTs of technical DDT per year.

**Report on the National Gas Grid**

1438. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission's K.D. Malaviya Institute for Petroleum Exploration had prepared a report on the national gas grid in October, 1984;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said report discussed the availability of natural gas by 2005 A.D. and its distribution through a pipeline network to all part of India covering developed and under developed areas of different states;

(c) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has not looked into the report; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to implement the report and provide flexibility in the utilisation of gas and remove regional imbalances?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The National Gas Grid is a part of the long-term perspective plan for natural gas transportation and utilisation. Its implementation will depend upon finding adequate quantity of gas for transportation through such a grid. The only inter-state gas pipeline so far set up is the HBJ pipeline. An inter-ministerial group is being appointed to examine the various issues relating to the establishment of a Southern Gas Grid. The present availability of gas does not justify establishing a National Gas Grid.

**NTPc's dues Ageinst State Electricity Boards**

1439. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Thermal Power Corporation has sought Central assistance in recovering dues totalling Rs. 780 crore owed by State Electricity Boards to it;

(b) if so, what is the amount due from each State Electricity Board towards the NTPC; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to get the dues recovered by the NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) A statement giving the outstanding dues of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) with the various State Electricity Boards etc., as at the end of February, 1990, is Annexed. The defaulting States|Union Territories etc. have been advised to make regular payment of the current dues and to gradually liquidate the arrears in a time bound manner.